



Billing Code 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Paiute Pipeline Company

Docket No. CP14-509-000

Notice of Availability of the
Environmental Assessment for the Proposed
2015 Elko Area Expansion Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) of the 2015 Elko Area Expansion Project (Elko Expansion Project or Project) proposed by Paiute Pipeline Company in the above-referenced docket. Paiute Pipeline Company requests authorization to construct, operate, and maintain a new natural gas pipeline and associated facilities in Elko County, Nevada.

The proposed Elko Expansion Project would involve construction of about 35 miles of new 8-inch-diameter pipeline, one interconnect station, modifications to the existing Elko City Gate, and two isolation valves. Paiute Pipeline Company states that the purpose of the Project is to provide 21,994 dekatherms per day of natural gas transportation service to the Elko, Nevada area.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Elko Expansion Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed Project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participated as cooperating agencies in the preparation of this EA. Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposal and participate in the NEPA analysis. The BLM has jurisdiction over public land and with this document is evaluating the environmental effects of issuing a right-of-way grant to Paiute Pipeline Company.

The FERC staff mailed copies of the EA to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; newspapers and libraries in the Project area; and parties to this proceeding. In addition, the EA is available for public viewing on the FERC's website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link.

A limited number of copies of the EA are also available for distribution and public inspection at:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Public Reference Room

888 First Street, NE, Room 2A

Washington, DC 20426

(202) 502-8371

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your comments are properly recorded and considered prior to a Commission decision on the proposal, it is important that the FERC receives your comments in Washington, DC on or before **February 26, 2015**.

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances, please reference the project docket number (CP14-509-000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has dedicated eFiling expert staff available to assist you at 202-502-8258 or efiling@ferc.gov.

- (1) You may file your comments electronically by using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's website at www.ferc.gov under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). An eComment is an easy method for interested persons to submit text-only comments on a project;
- (2) You may file your comments electronically by using the eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website at www.ferc.gov under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). With eFiling you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on “[eRegister](#).” You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making. A comment on a particular project is considered a “Comment on a Filing”; or
- (3) You may file a paper copy of your comments at the following address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Although your comments will be considered by the Commission, simply filing comments will not serve to make the commentor a party to the proceeding. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations Part 385.214).¹ Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding that would not be adequately represented by any other parties. **You do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.**

Additional information about the Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at **1-866-208-FERC (3372)** or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search," and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., CP14-509). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, contact 1-202-502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

¹ Interventions may also be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. See the previous discussion on filing comments electronically.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription, which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/doc-filing/esubscriptions.asp.

Dated: January 27, 2015

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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